

Dear NOSB Chairman Riddle,

We have been following with much interest the matter of the pasture requirement in the organic standard. We are writing to ask that you and your fellow committee members adopt strong guidance language that is consistent with current law and regulations requiring livestock to be managed promoting their natural instinctive behavior—and in the case of ruminants requiring pasture as a meaningful part of their feed.

- 1) Please do not allow the hard working small and mid-sized organic dairy farms in this country to be put at a competitive disadvantage because they have made the effort and incurred the cost to convert or maintain high-quality pasture on their farms and operate on a scale that allows their animals to legitimately graze.
- 2) Organic consumers have confidence in the integrity of the organic farming community and assume that their food dollars are supporting environmentally sound practices, humane animal husbandry, and economic fairness for farmers. Organic dairy farmers, astute business professionals, know it is important to respect customers' expectations concerning farm management practices that affect the quality and ethics of the food they produce.

We stand in solidarity with the farmers who have traveled to Washington in support of this effort and the representatives of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Association, The Cornucopia Institute and other member-organizations of the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture.

Signature Kate Clancy

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2005 JUL 32 A 11: 38